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THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER MY SUPERVISION BY

Ethan Woodard Davis

ENTITLED The Indian Question in Illinois

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OF Master of Arts in History

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HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF History.

C O N T E N T S

I N T R O D U C T I O N

When the Illinois country was first traversed by explorers of the Caucasion race, it was occupied by several different tribes of the great Algonquin family and also by a tribe known as the Winnebagoes, which was a branch of the Dakotas.

At that early day the red men were in entire possession and control of the land which they looked upon as their great hunting-grounds. The prairies, streams, and timber furnished them with ample resources for their food, clothing and shelter. They had not progressed beyond the natural stage and to obtain a living it was only necessary for them to look to nature for support. As one looks over the same territory today and compares the present with the past, he can not help but think, how changed! The ancient hunting-ground has long since ceased to be a hunting ground and the swarthy race which once occupied it has given place to a more enlightened people.

Instead of the hunting-ground we now find broad fields of grain, improved home-steads and numerous cities with their varied forms of occupation. The picture is entirely different, and the change that has been brot about was caused by the dominating force of the Anglo-Saxon. The story is an old one, it is the story of the strong race against the weaker, or if we like it is the story of the survival of the fittest in which the weaker submits to the power of the stronger.

Since the present conditions are so entirely different from what they were when the red-man roamed the prairies it is certainly worth while, especially for a citizen of Illinois to be able to look back on the early state of affairs and trace step by step the lessening of the Indians' power and influence until all is lost and a superior race is found in their place.

The purpose of this paper then will be to show how the territory at present incorporated within the boundaries of Illinois was gradually obtained from the natives and to notice during this period of transition something of the inter-relation of the two races.

During the period of early exploration in the west, 1673 to 1720, the Illinois country was inhabited by seven different tribes. The Illinois occupied the western section and along the Illinois river, the Miamis inhabited the east-central part, the Kickapoos the extreme north-eastern; the Sacs and Foxes and the Winnebagoes the northern, and lastly the Mascoutin of which but little is known.[1]

The tribes of the Illinois country did not occupy the same territory continually. They gradually changed their location and even other tribes such as the Ottawas and Chippewas made their appearance.

The Illinois were the most important of all the tribes and it was from them that the Commonwealth later took its name. The word

[1] Beckwith Illinois and Indiana Indians.

Illinois is derived from the Indian word "Lenno", which means man. This tribe was also said to have called themselves Iliniouck or a similar name which meant real men[1]. It was divided into five nations, the Kaskaskias, the Cahokias, Tamaroas, Peorias and Mitchigamis. The last nation in 1673 was located near the mouth of the Arkansas river[2], but was later admitted to the Illinois confederacy. The Illinois were inclined to be peaceable and were at times dealt with in a harsh manner by their war-like enemies. The attacks of the Iroquois who conquered the Illinois at the time of La Salle, and the later attacks of the Sacs and Foxes and others caused this peaceable tribe to migrate farther toward the southern end of the state. After these adversities the French were welcomed by them in a cordial manner. At the time of Joliet and Marquette, the Illinois tribe was estimated to number from ten to twelve thousand souls, but later their number was reduced very greatly by attacks from their enemies.

The Sac tribe was known to have occupied the region about Lake Huron in Canada in 1669 and 1670[3], while the Foxes were early found occupying the country about Puant Bay and upper Lake Michigan on the Wisconsin side[4]. These two tribes, which later were united, did not occupy lands in Illinois until after the coming of the French.

The Kickapoos, although their language is very similar to that of the Sacs, are said to have come from the west[5].

The Piaukashaws were a branch of the great Miami Confederacy.

But little is known of the Mascoutins, however, they are thought to have been absorbed by the Kickapoos[6].

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[3]Thwaites' Jesuit Relations, Vol. LIV, p.217; [4]id. V.LXII, p.205; [5]id. V. LIV. p.233; [6]id. v. V. p.280; [1]id. v.LXXII, p.310; [2]id.v.LXV,264

The Pottawatomies, Ottawas, and Chippewas occupied lands in the north-eastern part of the state.

When the French began to push their way into the Illinois country, they came either as missionaries or as fur-traders. Since they had no special thought of colonizing and tilling the soil, but only desired to look after the spiritual needs and to trade with the natives, a firm and lasting friendship sprang up between the two races.

The first mission established by the French in the Illinois country was that partially founded by Marquette in 1675 at Kaskaskia near the site of the present town of Ottawa.[1] The first military occupation was in 1680 at Ft. Crevecoeur erected on Peoria lake.[2] The first actual settlement of which we have an authentic account was made at Ft. St. Louis on the upper Illinois river in 1682,[3] while the first permanent settlement was that of Kaskaskia of uncertain date, as the authorities seem to have confused this settlement with the mission, Kaskaskia, founded by Marquette. Other towns soon sprang up in the vicinity of Kaskaskia and the white population gradually increased.

After the close of the Seven Years' War in 1763 the Northwest Territory passed from under French to British control. The natives were by no means pleased with the turn which affairs were taking and did not look with favor upon the prospect of having new masters. Since they knew something of both the English and French mode of life they were naturally reluctant to give up the friendship

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[1]Parkman's La Salle & Discovery of the Gt. West, p. 156.
[2]Thwaites' Jesuit Relations, V.LXIV, p.280; id.V.LVII,p.316
[3] " V.LVII, p.316

of missionaries and fur-traders for that of home-seekers and tillers of the soil. Although the transfer of the territory was legally affected by the treaty of Paris in 1763, the strong native opposition prevented an actual transference of power until 1765. At this latter date, after numerous attempts had been made to take the fort, Captain Thomas Stirling arrived and assumed authority with his head-quarters at Ft. Chartres[1]. Dissatisfaction had been so great among the Ottawa, Chippewa, Pottawatomis, Sacs and Foxes and others that a powerful confederacy had been secretly formed under the leadership of the great Ottawa chief Pontiac. Their purpose was to wrest the lands from the hands of the English. In making their attacks on the different forts to the west of the Alleghany mountains in the summer of 1763 they were only partially successful and were forced to give up their undertaking. Pontiac became discouraged and finally met his death at the hands of a Kaskaskia Indian.

The Northwest territory having come under the control of the English, King George III. on October 7, 1763 issued a proclamation by which the purchase or occupation of Indian lands was forbidden without special permission. The proclamation however was not strictly obeyed for several deeds were made by the natives to British subjects[2].

While the American colonies were striving for their Independence a wide-awake Virginian was seriously contemplating the importance to colonization of the wide expanse of territory between the mountains and the Mississippi river. Being impressed with the

[1]Mason's Chapters from Illinois History, pp.233-237.
[2]Brown pp. 210 and 211.

importance of the situation he sent two spies to Kaskaskia in the autumn of 1777 who reported the Indians gone to war, the French as friendly to the Colonies, while the British endeavored to influence them against the Americans. Colonel George Rogers Clark having received this report hastened to Virginia and presented his plans to Patrick Henry, Governor of the commonwealth. Governor Henry was well pleased with Clarke's notion of secretly invading the west and immediately sent a message to the legislature asking for authority to carry out the scheme. The legislature on the same day, December 10, 1777, passed a bill granting all the power desired by Mr. Henry. The Governor instructed him to raise seven companies of fifty men each and proceed against the British at Kaskaskia. Clarke met with many difficulties and was able to set out with only one hundred fifty men. Other recruits were secured as he proceeded down the Ohio river. On July 4, 1778, they arrived within a few miles of Kaskaskia. The town and surrounding country and even the territory were soon under the control of Colonel Clarke, and the great Northwest was saved to the Colonies.[1]

By the treaty of peace between Great Britain and the United States the British gave up their claim to the Northwest Territory and the Colonies gained a most valuable section of territory. The signing of this treaty brought to an end twenty years of British rule, which ended without any land titles having been extinguished. During the period of French rule no extensive purchase of land had been made from the western tribes and in 1763 the Colonies succeeded

[1]American Historical Rev. VoL.VIII, No. 3, April, 1903, pp.491-495.
Patrick Henry's Life & Correspondence, Vol.1.pp.582-602.
Dillon's Hist. of Indiana, Vol. 1. pp. 131-153.

to the rights of the English, for nothing was received from them other than the right to the old French grants and the title of the Iroquois Indians to western lands. After the Colonies ceded their western lands to the general government, the Continental Congress on June 15, 1785, issued a proclamation to prevent intrusion on the Indian lands. The proclamation was as follows: "WHEREAS, it has been represented to the United States, in Congress assembled, that several disorderly persons have crossed the Ohio river and settled upon their unappropriated lands, and whereas, it is their intention, as soon as it shall be surveyed, to open offices for the sale of a considerable part thereof, in such proportion and under such regulation as may suit the convenience of all the citizens of the said states and others who may wish to become purchasers:- and as such conduct tends to defeat the object they have in view; is in direct opposition to the ordinance and resolution of Congress and highly disrespectful to the federal authority: they have therefore thought fit and do hereby issue this their proclamation, strictly forbidding all such unwarrantable intrusion, and enjoining all those who have settled thereon to depart with their families and effects, without loss of time, as they shall answer the same at their peril." The treaty of 1783 established peace with Great Britain, but it had nothing to do with peace with the Indian tribes and their depredation, continued against the frontier-men who were compelled to erect block-houses for their protection. It had been the custom of the general government in relinquishing Indian titles to deal with Individual tribes. By so doing it was a comparatively easy task to secure the lands desired at very reasonable prices. The

Journal of Congress, Vol. X, p.148

tribes of the North-west, however, did not take kindly to such a custom. They were anxious to protect themselves against the encroachment of the whites who had been crossing the Ohio and establishing themselves on their lands. This caused serious difficulties between the two races and frequently violence and blood-shed.

The natives maintained that the Ohio river was the boundary line between the whites and themselves, while the whites held that the Northwest belonged successively to the French and English and that the United States had fallen heir to the same by the treaty of 1783.

The North-western Indian Confederacy, that it might consider these important questions and send a petition to Congress called a council of the tribes to meet at the mouth of the Detroit river. At this council, which met December 18, 1786, the tribes proposed that all treaties hereafter with the United States should be made only with the consent of the Confederacy. It was there notion that peace had not been permanent between the two races because everything had been managed to the liking of the whites. They at this time asked Congress that an early treaty be made and that the whites be prevented from crossing the Ohio until such treaty had been agreed to, while they themselves agreed to the same thing.

In accordance with this petition the government in the latter part of the following year instructed the Governor of the Northwest Territory that if conditions warranted such a thing that a treaty as general as possible should be held. The primary object of such a treaty was to restore peace and harmony. The new treaty, however,

was not to depart far from former treaties, "unless a change of boundaries beneficial to the United States can be obtained". The Governor was further instructed not to neglect an opportunity to extinguish Indian title as far west as the Mississippi. From the year 1788 to the latter part of 1794 there were almost incessant troubles with the northwestern Indians. These contests at times reached very serious proportions and finally required a very determined stand on the part of the government forces to overcome them. In the year 1790 General Harmar was defeated. General St. Clair was also defeated in the summer of 1792. These successes served to make the natives more hostile, and they were determined to drive the whites from the territory north of the Ohio. Joseph Brandt said in the summer of 1792, "the Indians are determined on a new boundary line with out which there are likely to be difficulties before peace can be established."

The natives were finally overcome by the forces under General Wayne on August 20, 1794. General Wayne then made preparations to negotiate a permanent treaty. This treaty was destined to mark the beginning of Indian land cession in the Illinois country.

TRADE WITH THE INDIANS.

The first law of the General Government with reference to trade with the Indians was passed by the Continental Congress in 1775 while the Northwest Territory was still under the control of Great Britain. I mention this law from the fact that it was in force until the year 1786- three years after our title to the northwest was confirmed by the English. Up to the latter date, Indian affairs were regulated by commissioners who worked under the direction of Congress in their attempts to carry out a policy which would both promote peace between the Americans and Indians and at the same time secure the welfare of the latter.

The system of management at the time was divided into three departments, northern, middle, and southern. The northern department, which alone concerns us was placed under the management of two commissioners. A law was passed at this time requiring all persons who desired to trade with the Indians to secure a license from one of these commissioners. This license permitted the trader to pursue his occupation only in such districts as the commissioner might designate[1]. Affairs were substantially managed in this way until 1786 when an entirely new measure for the management of Indian affairs was passed.

The new law established two departments instead of three with one superintendent over each, whose duty was to carry out the wishes of Congress. Only citizens of the United States were now allowed to reside among or trade with the Indians and then only on condition

[1]Journal of Congress, Vol. I, page 151.

that they secured a license from the Superintendent or one of his deputies.[1] The law shows that the general government was really in earnest in its attempt to look after the welfare of the red-men, for it was required of each trader that prior to receiving his license he must present a certificate signed by the Governor of one of the states, testifying to his good moral character and to his suitability for the employment of a trader. The offense of trading without license was made punishable by a fine of five hundred dollars. The proper testimonials having been presented the trader must next pay fifty dollars for the privilege of trading for one year, and give bond to the amount of three thousand dollars as a surety for his adherence to the rules of trade.[2]

The general government had a feeling that the system of holding intercourse with the Indians through private traders was not conducive to the best relations between itself and the Indians. That this difficulty might be obviated a third act was passed ten years later. The new law of 1796 provided for supplying the natives with all necessary and useful articles at the lowest possible prices. The Act really established what is known as the factory system and a large appropriation was made to carry out that idea. From time to time the sum to be invested in goods and to pay officials was increased. For a number of years from this time traffic with the natives was carried on in a dual fashion. The private trader still pursued his course along side of the government factories. This naturally led to jealousy and bickerings between them. Opposed to

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[1] Journal of Congress, Vol. XI, page 126
[2] Am. State Papers, Vol. VI., page 205

both these were the British traders who seemed to have the natural faculty of getting on the right side of the natives.

In the year 1817 the British traders were licensed to trade in the United States.[1] The British traders then began to warn the natives against the United States traders, and told them that the United States government would be likely to punish them for the part they took with the English in the year of 1812. They carried on quite a large trade especially with the Winnebagoes, Sacs, and Foxes, which produced its fruit at the time of the Black Hawk uprising.[2]

The traffic in whiskey became an extensive part of the private trading system. Mr. Varnum writes from Chicago in 1820 and says, "The Indians have been induced to come to Chicago this season by the facility with which they are enabled to procure whiskey. The commerce this season has been almost entirely confined to that article. Of the two hundred boxes of sugar obtained from the natives not five have been purchased by any article other than whiskey."[3] Several instances of like evidence might be mentioned.

The general government tried earnestly to put a stop to liquor selling among the Indians, but in a country so sparsely settled, it is one thing to have good laws on the statute books but quite another to see that they are strictly enforced. Liquor selling was carried on by the private trader in spite of the acts of government, which act served to increase his popularity among the natives

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[1] Wisconsin Hist. Col., Vol. VII., page 274
Fur Trade and Factory System at Green Bay
[2] Wisconsin Hist. Col., Vol. VII. page 283
[3] Wisconsin Hist. Col., Vol. VII, page 286
Fur Trade and Factory System at Green Bay.

materially. This was so great that a bill was brought before Congress in the spring of 1820 providing for the revocation of the licenses of those traders who abused their privileges. The evils which resulted to the natives and indirectly to the frontiersmen from the selling and giving whiskey to the natives were very great. It was stated that Indians have been known to trade furs to the value of five or six dollars for a quart of whiskey. They had such an appetite for strong drink that they would even sell their kettles, guns, clothing and horses that they might secure the much craved fire-water; the excessive use of which sometimes led to the destruction of both life and property[1]. The trader with whiskey usually had a large trade with the natives[2]. One man was said to have purchased in 1825 over three hundred blankets of the natives, giving fire-water in return.

The private traders were able to make themselves more popular with the natives from the fact that they carried on a credit system with them, while the factory agents were allowed to sell on partial credit. Since the natives felt themselves befriended in this way by the private traders, their everlasting gratitude was won, and when they returned from the chase the private trader secured the great bulk of the furs while the factory did a comparatively small business[3].

The factory system might have been more successful had the agents taken the proper interest in its welfare and the welfare of the natives. The agents were frequently of a haughty and indepen-

[1]Wisconsin Hist. Col., Vol. VII, page 282; Am. State Papers, Vol. Vi., page 206.
[2]Am. State papers, Vol. VI., page 661.
[3] " " pages 66 & 67

dent nature, as they received the same salary whether few or many goods were sold. Since garrisons were usually stationed at the agencies it was not necessary for the agents to cultivate the friendship of the natives in order to be safe from injury. The goods, too, sold by the factories were said to be inferior to those sold by the individual traders, while their prices were generally higher than necessary to pay the expenses of the factory. The natives were no longer poor judges of goods and would go where the best bargains were open. All these things tended to alienate rather than make friendship with the red-men.[1]

In speaking of the trade with the Indians in 1818 John C. Calhoun, Secretary of War, stated as his opinion that, " the regular traders who have paid for their license will be active in suppressing the sale of intoxicating drinks", while he looked upon the natives as growing less war-like and as becoming more dependent upon the government by the issue of ammunition. It was his opinion as it had been that of Mr. Crawford before him, that the natives should as soon as possible be brought within the pale of civilization, for he stated that our laws and manners ought to supercede the savage manners and customs and that their settlements should be contracted within reasonable bounds and that such settlements should be for their permanent use. Under the present policy he saw the natives both decreasing and degenerating notwithstanding the efforts of the government to promote their happiness and civilization.[2]

After the factory system had been in use for a number of years

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[1] Am. State Papers, Vol. VI., pages 326-335.
[2] " " pages 183-4.

the government began to realize that its effect had not been to create that harmonic feeling which it had anticipated. The government had expected large returns from the fur-trade, but it only saw that trade diminish. The government had expected to gain the friendship and esteem of the natives, but it only saw their disrespect increase[1]. The factory system continued to exist in this half-hearted disrespectful state until the years 1824 and 1825 when the trading houses were abolished.

[1] Am. State Papers, Vol. VI, page 66
Am. State Papers, Vol. Vi., pages 513 and following.

RELATIONS WITH THE INDIANS PRIOR TO THE ORGANIZATION OF ILLNOIS INTO A SEPARATE TERRITORY IN 1809.

As early as September 27, 1792, Rufus Putnam, the agent for the United States, made a treaty of peace with the Wabash and Illinois Indians at Vincennes. In this treaty the government recognized the Indians rights and secured promises of friendly dealings from them. The general government showeda spirit of fairness in its dealings with the savages for they were guaranteed all their lands to which they held a just claim and that no part of their lands would ever be taken from them except by a fair purchase in which the native should have the right either to sell or to refuse to sell.

The policy adopted by the government at this time was followed by the United States in future dealings with the different tribes of the Illinois country as to their lands. From this time until the last native title was relinquished in the year 1833 the government forced no sales and always paid the natives the agreed amount for their lands. In fact money was sometimes paid to tribes other than those with whom the bargain was made and when the title was very questionable.

The first treaty by which the United States obtained rights to lands of the Illinois natives was that of Greenville, Ohio in 1795. This treaty, which was made after General Wayne had successfully overcame the Indian Confederacy, left the lands of the Illinois country almost entirely intact as the Indians' hunting-grounds.

Am. State papers, Vol. v., page 338.

There were, however, a few tracts obtained from the natives at the most important points. These tracts in so far as size was concerned were very small, but their cession served as an opening wedge which led within a few years to greater and far more important relinquishments. The great purpose of the treaty of Greenville as stated in that document was to restore peace and harmony which had been greatly distrubed between the natives and the United States. The tribes of Illinois which took part in this treaty were the Pottawatomies, Ottawas, Chippewas, Miami, Eel River, Weas, Kickapoos, Piankashaws and Kaskaskias.[1]

The five small tracts of land from which the Indian titles were relinquished were located in various parts of the Illinois country. One tract, six miles square, was located at the mouth of the Chicago river, another six miles square at old Fort Peorias, and a third twelve miles square at the mouth of the Illinois river. The post of Fort Massac located on the Ohio river a short distance above its mouth, the post of Vincennes on the Wabash and other places which had been in possession of the French and British were also reserved to the Americans.

In order to assure peace and to show the liberality and good intention of the general government, the United states relinquished all claim to other lands in the Illinois country, as well as to other parts of the Northwest Territory not excepted in the treaty. The government also agreed to give the natives ample notice as to the time when these different tracts would be surveyed so that they

[1]Am. State papers, Vol. V., page 562

might have representatives present to see that the lines were properly run.

Both parties showed that they were sincere in desiring peace for each agreed, as they did in several later treaties, that injuries done by private individuals of either side must not be punished by private revenge but that complaint shall be made to the proper authorities and the individuals punished according to law to the satisfaction of both parties.[1] As the remuneration received by the tribes had to do more with cessions without the state, I do not mention the amount of money received by them.

The government did not encourage the whites in settling on Indian lands for it agreed in the treaty that all white persons attempting to settle on such lands would be considered outside the protection of the United States. The natives, however, on their part agreed to protect traders who had been properly licensed to reside among them, but any one trading among them without license was to be brought to account before the Superintendent of Indian affairs and punished according to law. The natives also agreed that the Americans should have the right to pass without interference up the Chicago river, across the portage to the Illinois, and down that stream to the Mississippi.[2]

No other treaty was made with the natives of the Illinois country for about eight years. The difficulty which led up to the next treaty was the indefinite boundaries of the old French claim about Vincennes, known as the Vincennes tract.

[1]Am. State Papers, Vol. V., page 562
[2]Am. State Papers, Vol. V., page 563.

The fourth article of the Greenville treaty had decreed that certain lands near Vincennes from which the Indian titles had been relinquished were reserved to the United States. But when the Americans began to investigate as to the old boundary lines held by both the French and the British it was found that these lines could not be definitely determined. Since this was the state of affairs it was finally determined by the Fort Wayne treaty of June 7, 1803 between the United States and representatives of the Delawares, Shawanies, Pottawatomis, Miamis, Kickapoos, Eel River, Weas, Piankashaws, and Kaskaskias that a new boundary line for that special tract should be established.[1]

By far the greater part of this section under consideration was located in Indiana, but that portion located in Illinois forms a district of which the present town of Lawrenceville occupies about the center.[2] The boundary of the portion in Illinois took its beginning from a point on the Wabash river about twenty or twenty-five miles above the present city of Vincennes, called Point Coupei. From Point Coupei the north line extended into Illinois a distance of twelve miles by a line north seventy-eight degrees west. The west line was drawn parallel to the general course of the Wabash river to a point where it intersects the south boundary line drawn parallel to the north boundary and passes through the mouth of the White river. The Wabash river formed the eastern boundary of that portion of the tract located in Illinois.

At this time too, these same tribes ceded their claims to the great salt spring in Saline Creek in the southeastern part of the state, and also gave a small portion of land with it, a tract not

[1]Am. State Papers, Vol. V. p.688; [2]Appendix, Map 1, cession 1.

to exceed four miles square. The general government also secured the right to locate three small tracts of land - the size to be agreed upon- on the road from Vincennes to Kaskaskia. The government desired these tracts for the purpose of erecting houses of entertainment for travelers.[1] It is more than probable that the boundaries of these tracts were never located. If they were they were never actually surveyed.[2]

The Indians at this time had quite a friendly feeling toward the United States for they ceded their great salt spring merely as a mark of regard and frienship toward the government which they had begun to look upon as their friend and protector. The natives, however, were to receive some benefits from the spring as the government agreed to deliver to them a quantity of salt not to exceed one hundred and fifty bushels per year.

Prior to the surveying of the Vincennes tract some thought there were lands occupied by the whites which would fall without the line, so it was agreed to run the lines so as to include such settlers, while the natives were to receive equal portions within the tract.

With the exception of the big salt spring and the four square miles about it, the government really gained no additional territory at this time.[3]

During this same year, 1803, the first great land cession was made by the natives at Vincennes on the thirteenth of August. This

[1]Am. State papers, Vol. V., page 668
[2]Eighteenth Rep. of Bureau of Ethnology, Pt.2, page 665
[3]Am. State Papers, Vol. V. page 688.

cession in fact may be said to mark the beginning of the extinguishment of Indian land titles in the Illinois country.

By the early part of the year 1803 the government at Washington had formed the purpose of relinquishing Indian titles as rapidly as possible in the Illinois country. With this end in view Governor Harrison, who had just received his commission for holding treaties, was instructed to make treaties and secure the relinquishment of land titles as fast as he thought practicable to do so.

The distance to Washington was so great, and the means of travel so slow, it became almost absolutely necessary that the making of Indian treaties be left almost entirely in the hands of the governor[1].

The treaty of August 13th was made with the Kaskaskia tribe, which at this time included several divisions of the Illinois tribe under one name. The Illinois, it will be remembered, were the least war-like of any of the tribes in the Illinois country. Because of this fact they had lost in numbers by being harassed by their more warlike enemies. Other causes too, served to decrease their numbers. For several reasons they were willing to relinquish their claims to their lands, possibly the most important was the fact that they had lost their former strength and standing as a tribe and were no longer able to successfully occupy the extensive lands which their ancestors had held for so long. Another potent reason was the fact that their chiefs and warriors were anxious to take on the ways of civilization that they might be able to apply more ef-

[1] Am. State Papers, Vol. V. page 701

fectual means of earning comfortable livings for their families. On account of these circumstances, then, they were willing to relinquish their rights to almost all of their extensive lands in Illinois; all in fact but the small tract of 350 acres near the town of Kaskaskia, which they had always held and which had been secured to them by an Act of Congress in 1791, and another small tract of twelve-hundred eighty acres to be reserved in any part of their great possession which they might select.

The United States recognized the right of the Kaskaskias to hold these two claims perpetually and agreed to take them under its care and protection against the incursions of other tribes. The Kaskaskias in turn, were to refrain from waging war, insulting or offending other tribes or foreign nations without first getting the approval of the United States government. This cession was one of the greatest made by any tribe in the Illinois country and it has been estimated to contain over eight and one-half million acres. With the exception of the reservation spoken of the cession comprised all the lands situated between the Mississippi river and the watershed between the Wabash on the east and Saline Creek and the Kaskaskia river on the west. The eastern boundary followed the ridge to the north until the waters which flowed into the Illinois river were reached. This point proved to be located in the neighborhood of the present town of Gibson City. From here the northern boundary line extended in a direct line in a southwesterly direction to the mouth of the Illinois river. The natives, as in many of the later cessions, were granted the privilege of occupying their former

lands until they were taken up by settlers. For this extensive section of Illinois was paid the following: a cash payment of $580, an annuity in money of merchandise of $500, a house and enclosed field of not more than one hundred acres for the chief, a sum of $100 to be given yearly for the support of the priest, and the sum of $300 for the erection of a church.

In a little over one year from the time of the Kaskaskia cession, the Piankashaws who owned lands in the eastern part of the Illinois country concluded a treaty with the United States government at Vincennes on August 27th, in which they recognized the right of the Kaskaskias in the previous year to dispose of their vast possessions in lands.[1]

By the year 1804 several of the north-western tribes were receiving from the United State government annuities either in money or in the necessities of life. As the Sac tribe recognized that they were not among the favored they began to complain because they too were not receiving assistance from the general government and were in no way connected with it by treaty. This condition of affairs opened up an opportunity which the government was anxious to take advantage of, for, as we have seen, Harrison's instructions were to relinquish land titles as rapidly as he thought prudent.

The Sacs and Foxes at the time owned lands in the vicinity of the American settlements of Kaskaskia and St. Louis so it was thought a wise plan to gain their freindship. Orders were immediately sent

[1] Am. State Papers, Vol. V., page 690

to Governor Harrison instructing him to offer the Sacs and annuity of five or six hundred dollars and to stipulate that the United States was willing to receive in return an adequate cession of their lands.

The Sacs and Foxes were usually looked upon as one nation but at this particular time they saw fit to represent themselves as two different tribes, and each presented its claim for an annuity. Governor Harrison in order to avoid trouble and to please the Fox faction of the tribe agreed to give them an annuity, but only on condition that the extent of territory to be ceded be materially increased. The extent of this cession was quite large and as it was made soon after the Louisiana purchase, President Jefferson looked upon it as a strong means of retaining exclusive trade with the natives on the west side of the Mississippi river. The United States had already learned the lesson that it was necessary to control the trade exclusively if the natives were to be controlled in a peaceable manner.[1]

In accordance with instructions, Governor Harrison arranged for and concluded a treaty with the Sacs and Foxes at St. Louis on November 3, 1804. Considering its far-reaching effect this treaty proved to be the most noted made with tribes of the Illinois country. It was the terms of this treaty to which Chief Black Hawk and his followers objected and which finally led them to so effectually oppose the whites in the Black Hawk war. By this cession the Sacs and Foxes relinquished their claims to the vast territory lying to

[1] Am. State papers, Vol. V., page 693.

the north of the Illinois river and extending to the east to the Fox river which formed the eastern boundary of the cession. All the territory in Illinois north of the Illinois river and west of the Fox was included in this tract.[1] For their extensive cession, which included lands in both Missouri and Wisconsin, but by no means so extensive as in Illinois, the Sacs and Foxes received at the time of the treaty a payment of goods to the value of $2,234.50 and an annuity of $1000 in goods.[2]

The natives retained the right of occupying and hunting on these lands as long as they remained in the hands of the general government. It was this provision which led to much dispute and finally to the Black Hawk war.

The Sacs and Foxes, like the Kaskaskias, were prohibited from allowing unlicensed traders from residing among them. The government, on its part, recognized that the natives had been imposed upon in a commercial way and in order to alleviate this wrong, it proposed to establish trading-houses where individual Indians could obtain goods at more reasonable rates. For the consideration of $1000 in merchandise on September 3, 1822 the Sacs and Foxes released the United States from its obligation of maintaining a trading house for their benefit.[3]

As to individual criminal offenders, the same rule was followed that was made with the Kaskaskias.[4]

In the summer of 1804 the war department wrote Governor Harrison

[1]Appendix, map I, cession 3.
[2]Am. State Papers, Vol. V., pages 693-4.
[3]Am. State Papers, Vol. VI., page 393
[4]Am. State Papers, Vol. V., page 694

that he should encourage other tribes and especially the Piankashaws to follow the example of the Kaskaskias and cede to the United States their lands lying between the Kaskaskia cession and the Vincennes tract. President Jefferson suggested the idea of granting an annuity to each family and that it should be decreased as the family decreased or be entirely cut off when a particular family became extinct. This plan would no doubt have been more economical for the government, however we have no record that any such plan was adopted in dealing with the tribes of the Illinois country.

On August 26, 1805 Governor Harrison wrote the Secretary of War, General Dearborn, that a treaty could be made with the Piankashaws, providing for the cession of their lands west of the Vincennes tract. The Governor, without stating his reasons, suggested that it might be well to wait until the following spring to open up negotiations. In the same letter the Governor states that the natives are beginning to appreciate the value of their lands and are holding them at higher prices. One chief remarked that he knew "that a great part of their lands was worth six dollars per acre".[2]

The Secretary of War evidently did not favor the notion of waiting until spring to conclude the treaty, for it was signed at Vincennes on December 30th of the same year.

The cession included all the Piaukashaw lands situated between the Wabash river and the Kaskaskia cession of 1803 and lying south of the north boundary land of the Vincennes tract extended in a

[2] Am. State Papers, Vol. V., page 701.

direct line to the Kaskaskia cession. This tract was from eighty to ninety miles wide in an east and west direction. It was practically the same distance from the north line to the Ohio river.[1] The tribe at this time parted with all their lands within these boundaries except a reservation of twelve hundred eighty acres which they had the privilege of locating for themselves.[2] This, however, was never located and the right to locate it was surrendered on January 3,1818.[3]

The Piankashaws were now brought under the protection of the government and the tribe received as compensation for its relinquishment a cash payment of $1100 and the annuity which they had received by the Treaty of Greenville in 1795 was increased $300; while they were granted the usual privileges of occupying and hunting on the lands.

In commenting to the Secretary of War on the Piankashaw cession Governor Harrison thought it would be, "highly advantageous to the United States, nor is it by any means a bad bargain for the Indians themselves. The annuity which is now promised, together with that which they formerly received, will be a certain resource to them, when they shall be no longer able to procure susbistence from the chase."[4] In the same letter the Governor shows that he thoroly appreciates the difficulties and dangers to the weaker race coming in contact with Anglo-Saxons, for he advises that all persons be prohibited from trade with the natives unless they had first received a license from the government. He saw that since the Indians would continue to occupy the lands from which their title had been relinquished, they would necessarily come in close contact with the

[1]Appendix, Map I, cession 4.; [2]Am. State Papers, Vol. V., page 704
[3]Eighteenth Report of Bureau of Ethnology, Pt.2, page 673
[4]Am. State Papers, Vol. V., page 705

whites and would be in danger of falling a sacrifice to the merciless traders unless the government protected them.

This cession of the Piankashaws was the last tract of land from which the Indian title was relinquished prior to the organization of Illinois as a separate territory, February 3, 1809.

At the time of the organization of the Territory we find the natives still in possession of all the eastern part of the state north of the Vincennes tract to the Wisconsin boundary. The western boundary of this unrelinquished section on the south of the Illinois river was the water-shed between the Wabash and Kaskaskia rivers, while to the north of the Illinois, the Fox river formed the western boundary.

The natives also, still held entire possession of the lands between the north line of the Kaskaskia cession of 1803 and the Illinois river. Some tribes too, still claimed rights to the territory ceded by the Sacs and Foxes in 1804. Taking the Illinois country as a whole the government had prior to the organization of the Territory of Illinois gained titles to the greater portion of it, including much of the very best soil. Up until a few years before the organization of the territory comparatively peaceful relations existed between the tribes and the whites. There had been occasional petty quarrels, and thefts of cattle and horses and a few white settlers had lost their lives, but on the whole, disturbances had been no greater than might be expected in frontier life.

RELATIONS WITH THE INDIANS DURING THE TERRITORIAL PERIOD.

With the exception of two or three years just prior to the formation of Illinois into a separate territory, the whites and Indians had lived in comparative peace with one another. But as early as the first part of 1807, letters were received from the northwest territory showing that dissatisfaction was growing among the tribes and that attempts were being made to unite them against the Americans. Then hostile feelings were thought to have been inspired by foreigners trading in the country. A chief at Michilimackinac in May 1807 in order to turn the natives against the whites, told his people that the Great Spirit sent word to them saying, "I am the father of the English, of the French, of the Spaniards, and of the Indians, but the Americans I did not make. They are not my children but the children of the evil spirit. They grew from the scum of the great water, when it was troubled by the evil spirit, and the froth was driven into the woods by a strong east wind. They are numerous, but I hate them."[1]

The British, too, were causing the news to be circulated among the natives that they were on the point of beginning hostilities with the United States and requested certain Indians to join them.[2]

Under the able administration of Governor Harrison emigration and relinquishment of land titles increased rapidly in Illinois and the Northwest Territory and some of the natives began to look upon the relinquishment of land titles with a jealous eye. The foremost

[1]Am. State Papers, Vol. V., pages 798-9
[2]Am. State Papers, VOl. V., page 798.

of those who were radical in the denunciation of this land policy was the Chief Tecumseh and his brother, the Prophet of the Shawanee tribe. They contended that the lands belonged to all the tribes in common and that no particular tribe had the right to sell lands without the consent of the other tribes. So in order that this idea might be made to have a particular bearing, Tecumseh and the Prophet started an opposition and began to advocate the necessity of forming the tribes of the Northwest Territory into a Confederacy. They had no intention of waging war at first, but proposed to bring about the desired result by peaceful means.

In 1806 Tecumseh and the Prophet established their headquarters at Greenville and from that point they went out in different directions to spread their ideas among the tribes. Their influence in this way became widely extended among the natives. The Prophet very soon claimed to be seeing visions and that he was favored with a divine commission from the Great Spirit, that the power over life and death had been placed in his hands and that he was the affiliated agent for preserving the property and lands of the Indians and for restoring them to their original owners.[1]

The Indians were naturally of a superstitious nature and their minds were soon influenced by the teachings of the Prophet. His followers increased rapidly in number and the opportune time seemed to have arrived for Tecumseh to step forth and mingle with those who came to hear the Prophet. Tecumseh's life soon became one of intense activity. He went from tribe to tribe exhorting them to unite and oppose the encroachment of the pale-faces. His wanderings ex-

[1] Peck's Western Annals, page 570

tended through Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, along the Mississippi and even into the territory of the Creeks and Cherokees in the south.[1]

Affairs were looking so gloomy for the Americans that Governor Harrison sent messengers to the Miami, Pottawatomies, and others to assure them that they could still rely on the protection and friendship of the United States. He also warned them not to be misled by the teachings of the Prophet. Notwithstanding the Governor's efforts in behalf of peace, discontent still prevailed among the natives to such an extent that he sent to Tecumseh to learn the cause. Tecumseh appeared in person at Vincennes, August 10, 1810 to give his reply to the Governor.

At a council meeting he used very scathing language in denouncing the treatment which the Indians had received at the hands of the whites. He told the General and those at the council that since the peace of Greenville the whites had killed members of different tribes and were appropriating their lands. He also accused the whites of trying to prevent the different tribes from uniting and holding their lands as common property of the entire confederation. He said further, " you are continually driving the red people, and will at last drive them into the Great Lakes where they can neither stand nor work."

Since the peace of Greenville several treaties had been made conveying lands to the whites. To all these transactions Tecumseh and his followers objected as illegal. The treaty to which they

[1] Peck's Western Annals, page 571.

especially objected and with which the Illinois tribes were concerned was the treaty of Fort Wayne, September 30, 1809. This treaty, and the one made at Vincennes December 9th of the same year, covered lands in the Illinois country on the Wabash river which were thought to contain valuable deposits of copper ore. By the Fort Wayne treaty the Miamis and Eel river tribes, with the Delawares and Pottawatomis as their allies, ceded to the United States the tract situated north of the Vincennes cession. It extended to the northwardly extension of a line running through the mouth of the Raccoon creek and was fifteen miles in width from the Wabash. About three-fourths of this cession was located within Illinois.[1] As compensation for the entire tract the four tribes received a permanent annuity of one thousand seven hundred fifty dollars. Before this treaty was to be binding, however, it was agreed that the Kickapoo tribe must give its sanction to the transaction, which it did at Vincennes in the following December for an annuity of four hundred dollars and goods to the value of eight hundred dollars.[2]

A small additional cession was obtained of the Kickapoos by the Vincennes treaty of December 9th. The tract was only about twenty miles square and was situated between the lands obtained by the Fort Wayne treaty and the Vermillion river. The whites thought it contained a rich copper mine. General Harrison wrote the Secretary of War that he had fre uently seen specimens of the copper and that he had sent a piece of it to President Jefferson in 1802. As compensation for the relinquishment of their claims the Kickapoos received an annuity of one hundred dollars and a present payment of

[1] Appendix, Map I, cession 5.
[2] Am. State Papers, Vol. V., pages 761-2.

goods to the value of seven hundred dollars.[1]

In addressing Governor Harrison concerning the Fort Wayne treaty Tecumseh admitted that he had threatened the lives of those chiefs who had signed it. In the future he proposed that the village chiefs should not be permitted to manage their own affairs but that their former rights should be placed in the hands of the war chiefs.[2]

The conference came near ending in a bloody combat, which no doubt would have been the result if the whites had not gone to the conference prepared for an unexpected attack. The Governor finally told Tecumseh that he was a bad man and that he would hold no further communication with him.[3]

After the conference with the Governor Tecumseh and a few followers went to the south to enlist the sympathy of the Creeks and Cherokees in this great project of reorganizing a Confederacy to oppose the encroachments of the whites. During the years 1809 and 1810 letters from different points on the frontier showed that the natives were growing more and more hostile. At first some of the tribes were reluctant to renew a bloody contest with the whites, for in the early part of 1809 a letter from Fort Wayne stated that the Chippewas, Ottawas, and the Pottawatomis were less inclined to follow the leadership of the Prophet who had established himself at the upper Wabash in 1808, from the fact that he had asked them to accept the toma-hawk from him and destroy all the white settlers at Vincennes and other permanent posts in the North-west.[4] The action

[1]Am. State Papers, Vol. V., page 762
[2]Drake's Life of Tecumseh, page 126; [3]id. pages 127-8.
[4]Am. State Papers, Vol. V. pages 798-9.

of these tribes, however, was taken prior to the formation of the treaty of Fort Wayne in the autumn of the same year and before such a strong feeling had been engendered against the whites.

By the middle of the year 1810 evidence seems to have been conclusive that the Prophet was organizing the natives into a strong combination against the United States. Letters from St. Louis, Vincennes, and Fort Wayne at this time all confirm the idea.[1]

By the summer of the following year affairs had grown still more serious. The natives of the Illinois country were committing more frequent deeds of plunder, robbery and murder. In fact, conditions were becoming so serious that it was necessary to erect block-houses in different places.[2]

A great mass-meeting was held in Illinois which drew up a memorial to the President of the United States, stating that they had been troubled with Indian murders and theft on the Illinois river for the past six years and implored the general government to establish garrisons of troops at Peoria and near the mouth of the Illinois river. They also prayed Governor Edwards to use his influence with the government at Washington to secure their needs.[3]

Since such a state of affairs was existing it may be said that a state of warfare was in existence for several months prior to the Tippecanoe outbreak of November 7, 1811.

During the month of October, 1811, Governor Harrison having been convinced of the hostile intention of the Prophet, and his followers

[1] Am. State papers, Vol. V, pages 799; [2] id. 800; [3] id.803

on the Upper Wabash, gradually pushed his way up that stream. His intention was to move on Tippecanoe while at the same time he held out terms of peace to the Prophet. When he arrived in the vicinity of the Prophet's town, he was met by ambassadors who expressed suprise that he was moving upon their town with such great rapidity. The Governor assured them that he had no hostile intention provided they continued to respect the existing treaties. They went into camp and on the following morning the natives made an unexpected attack. By hard fighting and considerable loss of life the Prophet's force was finally defeated.

The Governor estimated that the Prophet had a following of about six hundred warriors. Since large tracks were seen coming from the west it was thought that the Illinois tribes took some part in the engagement. However, this is not definitely known to be true.[1]

The defeat of the prophet at Tippecanoe prevented the Illinois tribes from joining him and no doubt made them more reluctant to join the British against the Americans in the following year.

When war was declared against Great Britain in 1812 matters became very serious for the fronteirsman of Illinois. The government, however, took special interest to keep on friendly terms with the natives. During the early part of the war the government frequently fed and made presents to the Sacs and Foxes with the desire of retaining their friendship. A portion of these tribes was sent to Missouri and a factory established among them that they might be kept from the British influence. The division of these two tribes

[1]Am. State Papers, Vol. V., pages 776-7

known as the war party continued a reside on Rock river while most of the peace party emigrated to an remained in Missouri for one year, but at the end of that time they returned to their friends in the northwestern part of Illinois. The supposition is that they had learned of the approach of the British, for as soon as the post at Prairie du Chieu fell into the hands of the English, the natives at once turned against the United States and joined them. It looked very much as if the tribes of the North-west were only waiting to see which way the tide would turn before they allied themselves with either side; for when General Hull surrendered Detroit in such a cowardly manner the tribes began immediately to flock to the side of the English[1].

Of the Indian out-breaks which occurred in the Illinois territory during the war of 1812, the most horrible event was that of the massacre at Fort Dearborn on the present site of Chicago.

On the seventh of August, 1812, Captain Heald, Commander at the fort, received a message from Governor Hull, Commander-in-chief of the North-west, that war had been declared between the United States and Great Britain. The Captain's orders were to evacuate Fort Dearborn, if practicable, and distribute the property belonging to the government in the fort to the Indians in the neighborhood. After several days delay he decided to evacuate the fort although this was in direct opposition to the views of most of the others at the fort. While the Captain was delaying news was brought to the Pottawatomies who occupied that region that Fort Mackinac had surren-

[1]Wis. Hist. Collection, Vol. XI., page 331
Letter Book of Thomas Forsythe.

dered to the British and that General Hull had retreated from Canada and probably would soon surrender. The Indians immediately grew insolent; but notwithstanding the condition of affairs and the protestation of the troops, Captain Heald evacuated the fort on the morning of August 15th with the understanding that the Pottawatomies were to escort them safely to Fort Wayne. Soon after they had left the fort and were marching along the shore of the lake, the Pottawatomies attacked them. A terrible battle took place in which two-thirds of the company lost their lives. The soldiers with their wives and children who were fortunate enough to escape death were distributed among the Pottawatomi villages on the Illinois, Wabash, Rock, and Milwaukee rivers. A number of them were ransomed at Detroit the following spring. Captain Heald and wife were surrendered to the authorities at Mackinac and were afterwards released.[1]

A prominent family by the name of Kinzie made their way to Detroit. Mr. Kinzie was siezed as a spy at Fort Malden by General Procter and remained a prisoner until Commodore Perry arrived at that place in September 1813. In 1816 the Kinzie family returned to their desolate home at Fort Dearborn. There they found the bones of the soldiers who were massacred in 1812 still bleaching on the sands of the lake shore, where they were now collected and buried.[2]

The Pottawatomies who took part in the Chicago massacre afterward took part in the attack on Fort Wayne and after they learned of the surrender of General Hull they joined the British and took part in the bloody massacre of the River Raisin.[3]

[1]Peck's Western Annals, pages 601-615
[2]Early Chicago- Wentworth, page 24
[3]Early Chicago- Wentworth, page 21.

During the war of 1812 Great Britain furnished the natives with arms and ammunition. They also gave them a bounty of twenty dollars for every white scalp until the Indians discovered that the government agents could not distinguish between Canadian scalps and scalps of the citizens of the United States. When they began to scalp whites indiscriminately both north and south of the Great Lakes, the bounty was dispensed with.[1]

The settlers during the war were compelled to take refuge in the block-houses. A company of regulars was sent to Illinois to assist the whites in defending themselves. In a short time the Shawanee tribe was almost entirely exterminated. The principal village of the Kickapoos on the Illinois river almost opposite the head of Peoria lake was taken and burned. They lost their crops and were so completely overcome that they did not give the whites any more trouble during the entire war.[2]

There was also an expedition organized against the Sacs and Foxes under the command of Major Zachory Taylor. A successful attack was made against them and the Indians defeated near Rock Island, only a short distance from where the British flag was flying.[3]

By the treaty of Greenville, July 22, 1814, peace was made with a number of the tribes, including the Shawanee, Eel River, Miami, and Wea tribes.[4]

During the summer and autumn of 1815 at Portage des Sioux treat-

[1]Wis. Hist. Collection, Vol.VII, pages 309-10; [2]idem. 311
From Early Western Days by Hon. John Kingston
[3]Wis. Hist. Col. Vol. VII., page 313
[4]Am. State papers, Vol. V., page 826

ies of peace were made also with the Kickapoos, Pottawatomies, Piankashaws, and the Sacs. The Fox tribe also confirmed the St. Louis treaty of 1804. The Chippewas and Winnebagoes sent deputies to the peace conference while the Sacs of the Rock river absolutely refused to treat with the United States, but continued to make depredations on the settlers even after this treaty was begun. At first the government felt inclined to deal rather harshly with the Sacs for their unruly action but the Governor was at last advised to use clemency and make peace with them since they had shown some inclination in that direction. Peace was at last concluded with the Sacs on the thirteenth of May, 1816, when they too, confirmed the St. Louis treaty of 1804. The Winnebagoes made peace in June, 1816, and the Ottawas, Chippewas, and Pottawatomies followed their example in August of the same year[1]. For a few years prior to, during and for some time after the close of the war of 1812 no land claims were relinquished in the territory of Illinois. In fact during that period there had been but slight emigration to the west. After the return of peace emigration began to increase and lands began to be more in demand.

After the close of the war there were four treaties made prior to the organization of the state of Illinois. The first of these was that made with the Weas and Kickapoos at Fort Harrison, June 4, 1816. The import of this treaty was simply the fact that these two tribes confirmed the two treaties of Fort Wayne and Vincennes in the year 1809[2]. The tracts of land which were obtained at that time on account of their supposed deposits of copper had not been settled

[1] Peck's Western Annals, pages 647-652.
Am. State Papers, Vol. VI. pages 2-12 & 94-96; [2] idem. page 93.

rapidly and the surveying had been long delayed. This delay had given opportunity for other claims to be advanced to these sections, which led Mr. Crawford, Secretary of War, to advise that the relinquishment of land claims should not be pushed faster than will meet the demand of white settlers. In order to settle all claims to Wabash lands Mr. Crawford sent five thousand dollars to be used to conciliate tribes who lay any species of claim to the lands[1].

In the late summer of the year 1816 an important treaty was made at St. Louis which gave to the United States the valuable lands in the vicinity of Chicago. The treaty was made with the Ottawas, Chippewas, and Pottawatomies on the 24th day of August, and was brought about through a serious dispute which had arisen with these tribes concerning their rights to the land that had been ceded by the Sacs and Foxes in 1804. Both sides were anxious that the affair might be settled in an amicable manner, so a compromise was reached by which the Indians made certain cessions to the United States, while the government acknowledged the Indians as owners of certain lands which had been bought from the Sacs and Foxes in 1804. The tribes above mentioned at the time gave up all claim to that territory north of the Illinois river and south of the parallel passing through the most southern point of Lake Michigan and extending east as far as the Fox river. They also gave up their claim to a very irregular but valuable tract of land.[2] The tribes in return received all those lands ceded by the Sacs and Foxes in 1804, which were situated north of the parallel passing through the most southern point of Lake Michigan. They also received at the time of the cession a

[1]Am. State Papers, Vol. VI., pages 96-7.
[2]Appendix, Map I, cession 7.
[2]Appendix, Note I. for full description of boundary.

quantity of goods and the United States agreed to pay them an annuity of one thousand dollars for twelve years.[1]

It was over two years from the time of this treaty before any more land claims were relinquished. The next treaty was that of Edwardsville, September 25, 1818, with the several branches of the Illinois tribe. The purpose of the government was to quiet the title to the lands ceded by the Kaskaskias in 1803, which at that time included all the branches of the Illinois tribe except the Peorias. In addition to confirming the treaty of 1803 the Illinois tribe relinquished their claim to all their lands in the territory, which meant the territory between the Kaskaskia cession and the Illinois river.[2] In payment they received two thousand dollars worth of merchandise and the Peorias received an annuity of three hundred dollars for twelve years, and six hundred forty acres of land in Missouri.[3]

In the following month of this same year a treaty was made with the Pottawatomies at St. Marys, Ohio, which gave the United States an extensive territory but only a very small portion of it was located in Illinois. This was bounded on the southwest by the Vermillion river from the point where it crosses the state line up that stream for about twenty miles. The northwest boundary of this small triangular tract was a line drawn parallel to the general course of the upper Wabash which flowed practically in a southwestern direction. The state line formed the eastern boundary.[4] Since the tribe received two thousand five hundred dollars for the

[1]Am. State Papers, Vol. VI., pages 95-6; [3]idem, page 167; idem p.168.
[2]Appendix, Map I., cession 8; [4]cession 9.

entire tract the portion located in Illinois amounted to only a small fraction of that sum.[1] As the territorial period draws to a close by far the greater portion of the state is found to have passed into the hands of the whites. The lands still under the control of the natives included the following: the lands in the northern part of the state above the parallel passing through the most southern point of Lake Michigan, except a small district about Chicago; the lands in the extreme eastern part of the state extending north from the late Pottawatomi cession; the lands south of the Illinois and Kankakee rivers and north of the direct line from the mouth of the Illinois river to the north-west corner of the Vincennes tract; and the lands situated south of the parallel through the most southern point of Lake Michigan and east of Fox river from a point ten miles above its mouth. The eastern boundary of this last tract was the northwestern boundary of the Ottawa, Chippewa, and Pottawatomi cession of 1816. With the exception of these few claims the Indians had no titles to Illinois lands and when the territory became a state the whites were fast becoming lords of the soil.

[1] Am. State Papers, Vol. VI, page 168.

RELATIONS WITH THE INDIANS DURING STATE-HOOD.

During the first fourteen years of state-hood the Indian claims which at the time of the admission of Illinois into the Union, extended over about one-half of the state, were relinquished and the Indians transported beyond the Mississippi river.

The first land claim relinquished during state-hood was that of the Kickapoos at the treaty of Edwardsville, July 30, 1819. By that treaty the Kickapoos ceded all their lands, which included all the central parts of the states. A portion of this great Kickapoo cession was claimed by them as an inheritance from their ancestors while the remainder they claimed by right of conquest from the Illinois tribe and from the fact that they had held undisputed possession of the land for fifty years. Exactly one month after the cession of July 30th, the Kickapoos of the Vermillion ceded their claim to Illinois lands at Fort Harrison. Their lands had really been included in the cession of July 30. The claim of the Kickapoos of the Vermillion extended to those lands north of the Piankashaw cession of 1805, and between the water-shed of the Kaskaskai and Wabash rivers, and the territory early ceded by the Miamis, Weas and Eel river tribes on the eastern border of the state.

In consideration for this cession the main tribe of the Kickapoos received three thousand dollars in merchandise and a small tract of land in the main territory, while the Kickapoos of the Vermillion gave up their former annuity of one thousand dollars and instead they were given an annuity of two thousand dollars in

specie for ten years and a cash payment of three thousand dollars. The extensive territory obtained at this time over-lapped a number of former cessions, the small tracts obtained at Peoria fort and at the mouth of the Illinois river in 1795, the Kaskaskia and Peoria cession respectively of the years 1803, and 1818, and the Piankashaw session of 1805[1].

We now have come to a period in Illinois history in which no land titles were relinquished for a period of ten years. During the ten years following 1819 the general government and the natives of the state of Illinois continued to hold exactly the same lands which were held by each in 1819. After the year 1819 the only tribes in Illinois which continued to hold lands within the state were the Winnebagoes, Ottawas, Chippewas and Pottawatomis. All of these tribes were located in the extreme northern section of the state.

In the latter part of 1819 Thomas Forsythe writes from St. Louis that from the best information that he is able to gather, the Indians along the Mississippi river are perfectly peaceable. Even the Sacs who had for years made their visits to Fort Malden and conferred with the British were beginning to think less of the English and more of the Americans.[2] Among the chiefs of the Sacs was an old man who went by the title "Old Lance ", who seemed to have been very much more progressive than the ordinary chiefs. At the time of his death in 1819 he had begun to develop among his tribe the idea of division of property. He advocated surveying and dividing their lands among the families according to the numbers.

[1]Am. State Papers, Vol. VI., pages 196-7.
[2]Wis. Hist. Col. Vol. VI., page 219.
From Letters of Thomas Forsythe to General Clark

many of the Indians were being converted to his notions, but with his death the plan was given up.[1]

Comparative peace was maintained between the Indians and the whites in the early part of the third decade of the 19th century. Trouble, however, arose between different northwestern tribes. These troubles reached such proportions that the government felt that it ought to take a hand in settling matters. So on August 19, 1825 a treaty was held at Prairie des Chiens, in Michigan territory with the Sacs, Foxes, Winnebagoes, Chippewas, Sioux and other northwestern tribes for the purpose of buying peace and harmony between the different tribes. The United States acted merely as mediator through William Clarke and Lewis Cass, its commissioners. The desired results were not permanently effected for hostilities continued and murders were of frequent occurrence.[2]

No other treaty was made with the Illinois Indians until the year 1829, when a treaty for the purpose of relinquishing land claims was made with the Chippewas, Ottawas , and Pottawatomies at Prairie du Chien, July 29, 1829. At this time these several tribes ceded to the United States the territory in northwestern Illinois bounded on the west by the Mississippi river, on the south by the parallel which passes through the most southern point of Lake Michigan and by the Rock river to a point forty miles opposite its mouth, and on the east by an irregular line drawn from a point forty miles above the mouth of Rock river through the sources of the small streams emptying into the Mississippi river.[3] This territory

[1] Wis. Hist. Col. Vol. VI., page 218
From letters of Thomas Forsyth to Governor Clark
[2] Statutes at Large, Vol. VII., page 272. Brown's Hist. Ill. page 356
[3] Appendix, Map. II, cession 2

covers a portion of the tract ceded by the Sacs and Foxes in 1804, but it had been retroceded by the general government to the Chippewas, Ottawas, and Pottawatomies in 1816.

By this same treaty these several tribes ceded to the United States a large tract of land bounded on the north by a line beginning on Lake Michigan about twelve miles north of the Chicago river and extending west to the Rock river which formed the western boundary. The parallel passing through the southern point of Lake Michigan formed the southern boundary while the eastern boundary was the northwestern boundary of the cession of 1816 and Lake Michigan.[1]

As compensation to the tribes the United States agreed to pay them sixteen thousand dollars annually forever in specie, fifty barrels of salt annually forever, and also make them a present of goods to the value of twelve thousand dollars. The government also agreed to make permanent for the use of the Indians the blacksmith's establishment at Chicago and to pay claims against the Indians to the sum of eleven thousand six hundred one dollars. From this cession twenty six sections were reserved for different individuals mentioned in the treaty.[2]

Three days later, August 1, 1829, the Winnebagoes ceded their lands in the northern part of the state. The cession was bounded on the west by a line drawn from a point forty miles above the mouth of Rock river through the sources of the small streams flowing into the Mississippi river, on the north by the state line, sugar creek, and the Pecatonica river, on the south and east by Rock river.

[1] Appendix, Map II, cession 3.
[2] Statute at Large, Vol. VII. pages 320-322.

As compensation the United States agreed to pay the Indians eighteen thousand dollars in specie annually for thirty years, to give a present of goods to the value of thirty thousand dollars. The government also agreed to give them annually three thousand pounds of tobacco and fifty barrels of salt for a period of thirty years. The government further agreed to establish and maintain three black-smith shops for thirty years, and pay claims against the Winnebagoes to the sum of twenty-three thousand five hundred thirty two dollars and twenty-eight cents. From this cession the United States granted forty-two sections to descendants of the Indians[1]. Before the land claims were relinquished by the Indians a very serious contest arose between the Sacs and Foxes and Winnebagoes on the one side, and the whites on the other. The trouble really dated back to the year 1804 when the Sacs and Foxes ceded such a vast tract of land to the general government. At that time the government had granted the Sacs and Foxes the privilege of occupying the lands so long as they remained in the hands of the government. The Winnebago tribe, naturally warlike, allied itself with the Sacs and Foxes in this struggle.

Even while the frontier settlements were from fifty to sixty miles to the east of the lands occupied by the tribes on Rock river and the lands between had not been surveyed, settlers in the summer of 1823 began to come in and settle on lands occupied by the Indians. They went so far as to fence in Indian corn-fields and a miniature reign of terror followed which grew worse year by year[2]. The settlers, however, were abiding by the treaty of 1804 for that treaty only

[1]Stat utes at Large, VoL. VII, pages 323-5
The Black Hawk War by Thwaite
[2]Wis. Hist. Col. Vol. XII. page 222

specified that the Indians could occupy the lands while they remained in possession of the government, and after the State was admitted to the Union immigration increased so rapidly that the Sacs and Foxes were soon surrounded by white settlers who no doubt committed depredations on the property and persons of the Indians in order to hasten their departure. When the Indians were pressed upon to give up the lands and move beyond the Mississippi river, the tribes separated into two factions, the peace party under Keokuk and the war party led by the Chief Black Hawk.

The natives really held no just claims to these lands for the treaty of 1804 had been re-confirmed by the treaty of Portage des Sioux in 1815 and by the treaty of St. Louis in 1816. All peaceful means were used to induce the Indians to retire to their lands west of the Mississippi river. These efforts were successful with the peace party under Keokuk but proved fruitless with Black Hawk and his followers who were known as the British party. In 1831 the movements of Black Hawk became so aggressive that it was necessary to call out a detachment of the army and militia of Illinois. Upon the showing of force upon the part of the government the war party agreed to retire to the west of the river and not to return to their former lands to the east of the Mississippi without the permission of the President of the United States or the Governor of Illinois.

These arrangements had not been much more than concluded when a party of Black Hawk's men attacked a band of Menominees at Prairie du Chien and massacred twenty-five and wounded others of them. Brown's Hist. of Ill. page 336

The Menominees were friendly to the United States and the government could not let such an outrage go unpunished for there would have been danger of war between the tribes and the whole northwestern frontier might have been endangered. Such action on the part of the government would also serve to bind the friendly tribes more closely to it. As other attacks were expected, the War Department on March 7, 1832, ordered general Atkinson located at Jefferson barracks St. Louis, to ascend the Mississippi river with all the troops that could be spared and carry out the orders of the department. Chicago was also to be re-occupied in order to strengthen the frontier.

The work of subduing the Indians was given to Major General Scott and Governor Reynolds of Illinois who were at last successful in bringing about peace[1]. The Black Hawk War is said to have cost the general government over two millions of dollars[2].

The war was brought to a close and treaties of cession signed at Fort Armstrong, Rock Island, in September of the year 1832. The Winnebagoes, on September 15th, ceded all their lands south of the Wisconsin river which included a very few square miles north of Sugar creek and the Pecatonica river in the northern part of Illinois[3]. The portion of this cession included within Illinois is so extremely small that it is not worth while to speak of it further. On the 21st of the same month the Sacs and Foxes ceded lands in Iowa to the general government. These cessions were required by the United States in order to securepeace and to teach the Indians a much-needed lesson. In order to make peace still more secure the

[1]Am. State Papers, Vol. V., Military Affairs, pages 23-4.
[2]Brown's Hist. of Ill. page 336
[3]Appendix, Map II, cession 5

United States government retained Black Hawk and a number of other chiefs as hostages while the remainder of the Indians were permitted to return to their tribes.[1]

After the close of the Sac and Fox war the Indians had but a few years to remain on Illinois soil. Only two cessions were necessary in order to transfer the last vestige of land from the red men who had occupied it for so long, to their successors and conquerors-the Anglo-Saxons. The first of these two cessions was that concluded at Camp Tippecanoe, October 20, 1832, with the Pottawatomi tribe. Their cession overlapped that made by the Illinois Confederacy, September 25, 1818. The cession was very irregular and began at a point on Lake Michigan ten miles south of the mouth of the Chicago river, thence to a point on the Kankakee river ten miles above its mouth, thence with the Kankakee and Illinois rivers to the mouth of the Fox river, being the boundary of a cession made by them in 1816, thence with the southern boundary of the Indian territory to the state line between Illinois and Indiana, thence by the state line to Lake Michigan. From this cession thirty-nine sections were reserved to individuals.[2]

As compensation the Pottawatomies were to receive an annuity of fifteen thousand dollars for twenty years; six hundred ollars were to be paid Billy Caldwell; two hundred dollars to Alexander Robinson, and two hundred dollars to Pierro and Clerc during their lives. The government agreed to pay claims against the Indians to the sum of twenty-eight thousand seven hundred forty-six dollars; to give them at the time of the treaty goods to the value of forty-five thousand

Am. State papers, Military Affairs, Vol. V. pages 23-4
[1] Statutes at Large, Vol. VII., pages 370-76. [2] Appendix, Map I, cession 10

dollars and the following year the government was to give them goods to the value of thirty thousand dollars. The Indians were also to receive fourteen hundred dollars in payment for horses stolen from them during the late war.

Since the pottawatomis had been faithful to the United States during the Sac and Fox struggle they were permitted to hunt and fish on the ceded lands so long as they remained government lands[1]. An account of the negotiations is given in order to give an idea as to the manner in which land cession treaties were sometimes negotiated.

At this time the general government in continuing its policy of removing the Indians to the west of the Mississippi river made a treaty with the Pottawatomis , Chippewas, and ottawas to that effect. The Indians did not appear anxious to dispose of their lands and would not meet in council when they sky was cloudy for they said that such a serious matter demanded a clear day for consideration. Important members of the tribe would often be absent and thus delay the proceedings of the council. Not only the chief menbut the majority of the tribe had assembled at Chicago. Even the women, children, dogs, and ponies had been brought along with them. Chicago was really in an uproar from morning until evening, and then throughout the night with the noisy Indians in their lodgings.

Although the government had forbidden the selling of whiskey, it was unable to prevent its being sold to the natives. Casks of it were for sale at the time of making this treaty, even under the eyes of the Commissioners, and distrubances with drunken brawls continued day after day. While these things were going on the natives

[1]Statutes at Large, Vol. VII. pages 378-80

feasted at the government's expense. The council was occasionally disturbed by natives under the influence of liquor, which showed that degredation had been the result of their coming in contact with the Anglo-Saxon. After several days deliberation the treaty was finally effected on September 26, 1833.[1]

By this treaty, which was made with the Chippewas, Ottawas, and Pottawatomies, the Indians ceded to the general government about five million acres. The cession included lands situated in the north-eastern part of the state between Lake Michigan and the Rock river. The southern boundary was a line drawn west from a point ten miles north of the mouth of the Chicago river.

The greater part of this cession was located in Wisconsin. Possibly one-fourth of it was located in the state of Illinois. As compensation the government agreed to give the tribes not less than five million acres of land west of the Mississippi river in the western part of the present state of Iowa. The United States also agreed to pay large sums of money to satisfy claims against the Indians, for annuities, reservation houses, improvements, schools etc. In fact the different sums agreed upon amounted to the vast amount of eight hundred fifty thousand six hundred dollars. In this treaty several sections of land were reserved for certain Indians and their heirs. This treaty was to become binding after it had been ratified by the President and Senate of the United states. The proclamation of its ratification was issued February 21, 1835.[3]

During the summer of the year 1835 Major Sibley, the government

[1]Chicago Antiquities by Hurlburt, pages 215-220
Appendix, Map II., cession 4
[3]Statutes at Large, Vol. VII, pages 431-3.

agent at Chicago, notified the tribes about Chicago that the time had arrived for them to remove from their old homes and that they must meet him in Chicago and receive their payments or annuities, and depart for their new homes.beyond the Mississippi river. At the time there were about five thousand Pottawatomies, Ottawas, and Chippewas. Major Sibley collected about half of them during that summer and autumn and guided them to their new home near Council Bluffs.

In the following year Captain J. B. T. Russell, the government agent notified the remainder of the tribes that they must now join those who had departed the previous year. Many of the Indians were by no means anxious to leave their old homes, but through the influence of Billy Caldwell, a half-breed, they were quietly transferred to their friends who had gone the year before.

Thus ends the rapid transfer of lands which had been used so long merely as hunting grounds and which were destined to rank among the best agricultural lands in the Union.

Addresses, Chicago Historical Society, pages 30-34.

A P P E N D I X

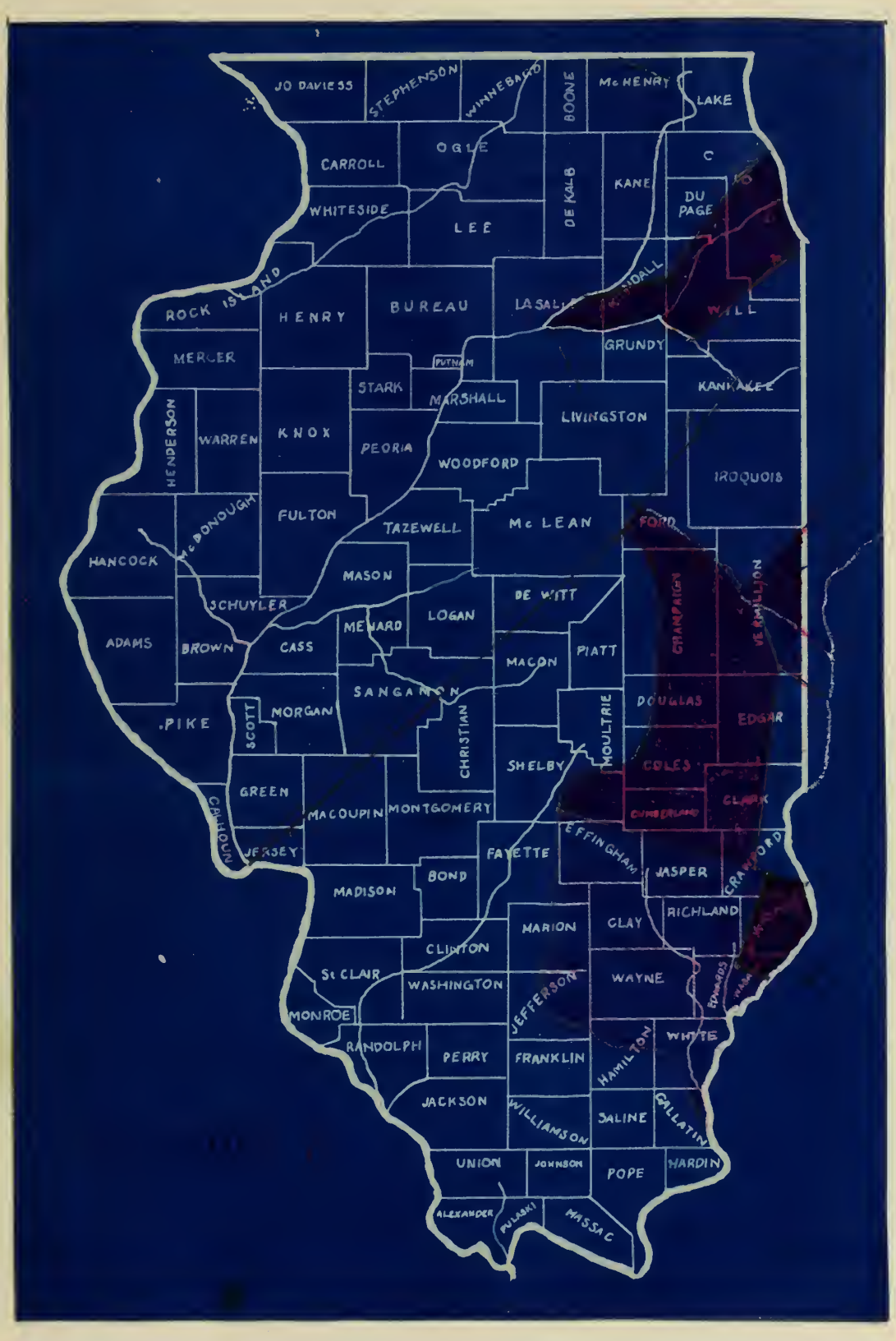
NOTE I:

The boundary of the lands about Chicago ceded August 24, 1816, began on the left bank of the Fox river ten miles above its mouth, thence by a direct line to a point on Sandy Creek ten miles above its mouth, thence by a direct line to a point ten miles north of the west end of the portage between Chicago and Desplaines rivers, thence by a direct line to a point on Lake Michigan ten miles north of the mouth of the Chicago river, thence along the lake shore to a point ten miles above its mouth, thence following the Kankakee, Illinois and Fox rivers to the place of beginning.

NOTE II:

The boundaries of the cession of July 30, 1819 began on the state line at a point where it is crossed by the Vermillion river and then follows the state line to the Kankakee river. The northern boundary was formed by the Kankakee and Illinois rivers, while the southern boundary was a line drawn, practically following the thirty-ninth degree of north latitude from the mouth of the Illinois river to the north-east corner of the Vincennes tract. The boundary then followed the western and northern boundaries of the cession formerly made by the Kickapoos to the place of beginning.[1]

[1] Am. State Papers, Vol. VI., pages 196-7.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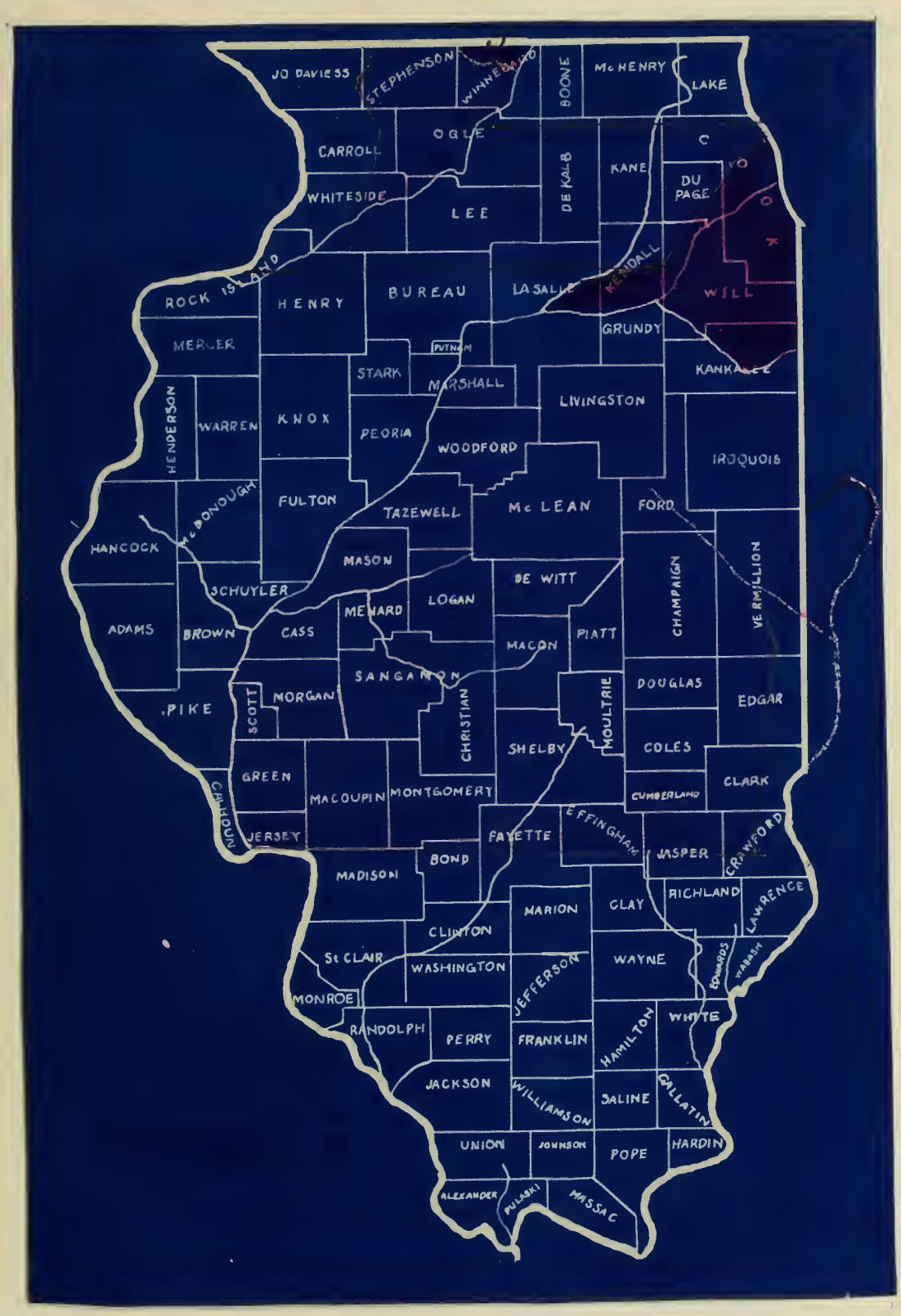
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